

---

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

---

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE  
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INTERISLAND FERRY SYSTEM  
SIMILAR TO THE FERRY SYSTEMS OPERATED BY WASHINGTON STATE  
AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, unlike other states, Hawaii does not enjoy the  
2 benefit of being linked to other states, cities, or towns via  
3 the federal interstate highway system or a network of  
4 interconnected state and local highways; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, air transportation is currently the only efficient  
7 means of travel between Hawaii's major islands; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, an interisland ferry system can serve as an  
10 efficient alternative for transporting passengers and cargo; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, Washington State Ferries, which is part of the  
13 Washington State Department of Transportation, operates the  
14 largest ferry system in the United States; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, with twenty-two ferries traversing the Puget Sound  
17 and its inland waterways, Washington State Ferries serves as a  
18 marine highway for commercial users, tourists, and daily  
19 commuters; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, Washington State Ferries employs approximately  
22 eighteen hundred people and is Washington's most popular tourist  
23 attraction; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, other jurisdictions with successful ferry systems  
26 include Alaska, New Zealand, and Australia/Tasmania; now,  
27 therefore,  
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the



1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
2 Transportation is requested to study the feasibility of  
3 establishing an interisland ferry system similar to the ferry  
4 systems operated by Washington State and other jurisdictions;  
5 and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
8 Transportation is requested to emphasize compliance of an  
9 interisland ferry system with the State's environmental  
10 protection laws, including chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes;  
11 and

12  
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
14 Transportation is requested to identify appropriate routes and  
15 harbors for an interisland ferry system; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
18 Transportation is requested to consider:

19  
20 (1) Potential costs and revenues of an interisland ferry  
21 system;

22  
23 (2) Financing options for an interisland ferry system,  
24 including the establishment of rates or fees to  
25 address operating costs; and

26  
27 (3) Parameters of an interisland ferry system, including  
28 vessel design and speed, passenger capacity, cargo  
29 capacity, automobile capacity, and compatibility with  
30 harbor infrastructure; and

31  
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
33 Transportation is requested to report its findings and  
34 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
35 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
36 the Regular Session of 2016; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
39 Bureau assist the Department of Transportation in the  
40 preparation of its report to the Legislature on findings and  
41 recommendations, including any proposed legislation; and  
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of  
3 Transportation and Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

